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Gregg Harper
Congress of the United States
Third District, Mississippi

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October 25, 2011

Via Electronic Filing
Ms. Cynthia T. Brown, Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

OCT 25 2011

Part of
Public Record

RE: STB Docket No. AB-1087-X
Grenada Railway LLC
Petition for Abandonment Exemption

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing regarding the abandonment petition for exemption filed by Grenada Railway, LLC on September 20, 2011. Through the exemption process, Grenada Railway seeks to abandon over 81.3 miles of rail located in Grenada, Montgomery, Carroll, Holmes, Yazoo and Madison Counties, in the State of Mississippi. I write to support the replies to Docket No. AB-1087X that you have received or will be receiving which are requesting that the Surface Transportation Board require Grenada Railway to file an application for abandonment rather than an abandonment exemption. I am also in support of the Mississippi Transportation Commission's September 29, 2011, request for an oral hearing on the abandonment exemption.

Grenada Railway took over this line, which runs from Canton, Mississippi, to Memphis, Tennessee, just over two years ago. Now they seek to divide the line into two segments and to abandon the portion between Canton and Grenada. This line is vitally important to the local shippers and for the future economic growth of the communities on or near the line. Allowing Grenada Railway to abandon all or any portion of its line from Canton to Memphis would reduce competition and severely hamper the State of Mississippi's efforts to recruit business.

The abandonment exemption process does not provide local communities the full opportunity to voice their concerns about the proposed abandonment. The notice of abandonment exemption was published in the Federal Register on Friday, October 7, and interested parties have 20 days to gather evidence and provide a response. Such a short time period is inadequate. Requiring Grenada Railway to comply with the Surface Transportation Board's application process would provide all parties with a fair process to have all claims heard and judged. An oral hearing would provide further opportunity for interested parties to fully provide input on the abandonment exemption request.

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Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

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